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AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

"JOHN BULL AND HIS ISLAND," published
by Charles Scribner & Sons (New York), is
one of the most delicate pieces of satire ever
written. It is the opinion of a French
gentleman upon English life and manners and
customs, of which he appears to have had con-
siderable opportunity to judge. The faults of
the English are treated with remarkable leni-
ency, unless a pungent and often cutting,
though always good-natured, criticism may be
considered severe, while their virtues are made
the most of, and, in many instances, exagger-
ated,—that is from our standpoint. His
recognition of a bustling, pushing, nervous
manner of transacting business, as distinctive
of the Englishmen will, no doubt, surprise
most of the American readers, as the idea
prevailed here that while our English relations
are conscientious and successful business men,
they are disposed to be rather slow going and
methodical. The author's opinion of English
law and its supremacy over French law is,
fortunately, only an opinion, for in France
justice is governed much more by common
sense and much less by technicalities than in
either England or the United States. The
book should be read by Americans, for many
of the faults it discovers, we have adopted in
this country and made them more obnoxious
inasmuch as they are adoptions, while a large
number of the good qualities we lack and
might, with profit, cultivate. The book is
printed in pamphlet size and contains some
240 pages. For a work printed and published
in New York, it was a mistake to abandon our
own simpler mode of spelling and adopt
the cumbersome and old-fashioned English
form, as using the letter *u* in such words as
"parlor," "candor," "color," etc. It is
either a poor principle or careless proof-read-
ing, and savors, rather too strongly, of a para-
graph used by the author: "One of the
largest tea houses is not ashamed to publish
the following advertisement in all the public
thoroughfares and railway stations of Eng-
land, 'We sell at three shillings a pound, the
same tea as we supply to dukes, marquises,
earls, barons, and the gentry of the country.'
The poor viscounts are left out; it is a regret-
table oversight."

THE CHRISTIAN UNION has within the past
month shown a pleasant and deserved compli-
ment to its former associate editor, MR.
HAMILTON W. MABIE, by raising him to the
chief editorial position in common with Dr.
Lyman Abbott. The action was entirely a
surprise to Mr. Mabie, not a "stage" surprise,
but a genuine one, and it is generally regarded
as a very suitable recognition of that gentle-
man's successful efforts on his paper. Several
new features are likewise announced, among
them a "House Beautiful" department under
the charge of Mary A. Allen, M. D., "which
will be found extremely suggestive and useful
in the direction of healthful homes and
methods of household management."

"SUGGESTIONS TO CHINA PAINTERS" by
Miss M. Louise McLoughlin, has just been
published by Robert Clarke & Co. (Cincinnati,
Ohio), and designed, as the author says, "as a
supplementary treatise to the little book on
'China Painting,' published by the writer
several years ago. It is less elementary in
character, and contains the results of later
experience." It is hardly necessary to extol
Miss McLoughlin's work for her books upon
the subject of china decoration have been
familiar to and accepted as authority by
amateurs and professionals alike. This new
volume is full of capital ideas and very valu-
able directions.

"THE ART AGE" is an occasional publica-
tion brought out by Mr. Arthur B. Turnure, of
this city, as an expositor and guide to artistic
book binding and printing. The present
demand of a generally refined public for taste
and judgment in these two phases of book-
making, should make an effort such as is Mr.
Turnure's successful. There appears to be
ample scope for such intelligence as this pub-
lication designs giving.

"A TEMPLE OF THE ART PRESERVATIVE OF
ALL ART" is a beautiful specimen of engraving
work and typography published by Matthews,
Northrup & Co., of Buffalo, N. Y., evidently
as an advertisement of what they can do, but
really as an example of fine art. The illustra-
tions are by Joseph Fleming, and are, of
course, the features of the book. Giacomelli,
Birds in April Showers comes in very appro-
priately.

THE GREENSBURG (Pa.) EXPRESS is an
enterprising paper and a good one as well. Its
lithographed annual address to its subscribers
is very neat and attractive this year, containing
a poem by Mr. James B. Laux, the editor.

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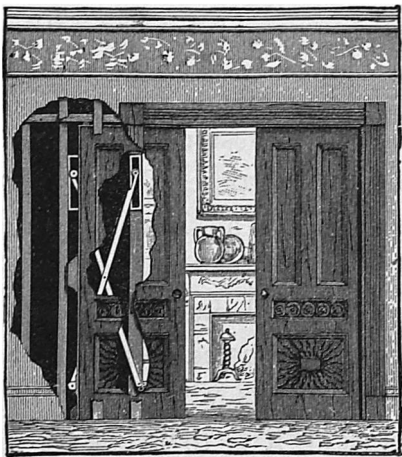
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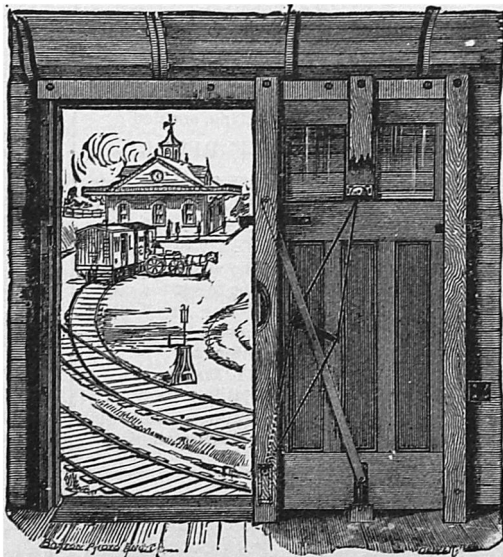
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AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

A FUNNY SUPERSTITION.—The first thing
the would-be house builder has to do is to find
out the situation of the great dragon that
encircles the earth with his body, like the
Midgard serpent of Northern mythology.
This must be ascertained before operations are
begun at all, for it will have a great influence,
not only on the time of beginning the building,
but on the way in which the foundations must
be dug and the method of hoisting the posts
into position. This the Burmese have recorded
for them in a rhyme which every school-boy
can repeat. The Siamese are not less alive to
the necessity of accurate information on the
subject, and it is fully set out in the "Tamra."
Insulting the dragon's tail is calamitous, for
the tail is a most touchy member, and would
as soon create an earthquake and ruin the
whole township as not. The reckless builder
who did such a thing would, therefore, be
stoned out of the community as a public
enemy. Touching the dragon's back is simple
lèse-majesté. The lord of the house will soon
find out his crime, but the knowledge will
come too late. He will die.—From "House
Building in the East," in Popular Science Monthly
for February.

"THE CALIFORNIA ARCHITECT AND BUILD-
ING NEWS" is the most practical and sensible
journal printed on the Pacific slope. It has
literary merits that make it agreeable reading,
and its practical articles, designs, and illustra-
tions are pertinent to its purposes and must be
extremely useful to the architects and builders
of all sections of the far West. Mr. George H.
Wolfe, the business manager, has displayed
considerable judgment and remarkable vigor
in working his paper to its present high
position.

"DECORATION," our beautiful English
exchange and source of supply for a multitude
of "original" designs published in American
papers, has made an excellent change in its
size, having reduced the dimensions of its
pages and doubled them in number, making
the paper less unwieldy and more easily
handled. The designs are as usual very rich,
one of them we reproduce on page 179.

"THE DELIGHT OF COACHING" is a capital
little brochure published by Murphy & Co. (N.
Y.), and illustrated with five excellent etchings
by Stephen James Ferris. The text is written
in a pleasing, eighteenth century manner and
printed in old style type. Anyone owning or
interested in a coach or coaching, can find
much of pleasure and profit in this little
volume.

"THE FURNITURE GAZETTE" of London,
one of the most complete and useful foreign
trade journals, appears in a new dress and
printed in brown ink. The appearance of the
type is thus improved, the only feature that
required or admitted of any change.

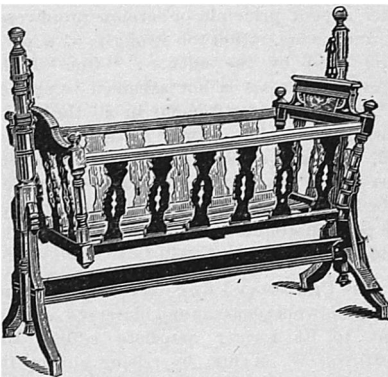
"THE ARTIST" has made several changes
in its scope recently. A serial story is running
in it, the price has been reduced to five cents,
more attention is given to literary matters and
designs are to be shown for needlework, etc.

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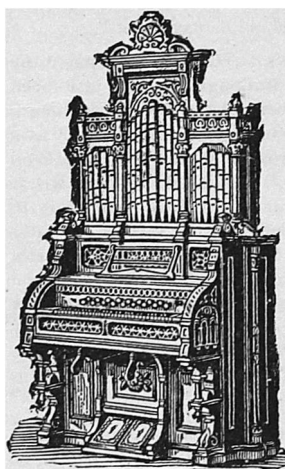
THE AMERICAN QUEEN has made a feature
recently of portraits and heads of prominent
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